

purse (*wmes rerum priuata m^l*) The distinction was similar to the old one between the *tcrarium* and *the focus*, between, that is to say, the State treasury and the Emperor's privy purse. One of the two ministers for war had supreme charge of the infantry of the Empire; the other was responsible for the cavalry. Both also exercised judicial functions and sat as a court of appeal in all military cases wherein the State was interested, either as plaintiff or defendant. There were still consuls in Rome, who continued to give their names to the year. All their political power had vanished, but their dignity remained unimpaired, though it was now derived not from the intrinsic Importance of their office so much as from its extrinsic ornaments. To be consul had become the ambition not of the boldest but of the vainest* (*In consulatu honos sine labor e suscifit*.) The pnc-torship had similarly fallen, but it still entailed upon the holder the expensive and sometimes ruinous privilege of providing shows for the amusement of the Roman populace. The number of pr&tors had fallen to two in Constantino's day: he raised it to eight, in accordance with his general regardlessness of expense, so long as there was outward magnificence. It is doubtful whether, during the reign of Constantine, there were consuls and pr&tors in Con-stantinople. Certainly there was no urban prefect appointed in that city until twenty years after his death, and it seems probable that the Emperor did not set up in his new capital quite such a pedantically perfect imitation of the official machinery of Rome as has sometimes been supposed* His